



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------	------------------

10/505,329

08/23/2004

Juan Tomas Arias

9303-35

3759

20792

7590

12/21/2005

MYERS BIGEL SIBLEY & SAJOVEC

PO BOX 37428

RALEIGH, NC 27627

EXAMINER

TRAN, QUOC DUC

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2643

DATE MAILED: 12/21/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/505,329

Applicant(s)

ARIAS, JUAN TOMAS

Examiner

Quoc D. Tran

Art Unit

2643

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 August 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 6 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 and 7-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 23 August 2004 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION***Drawings***

1. The drawings are objected to because the figures do not provide adequate descriptive label information in order to aid in understanding the invention. Drawings should include descriptive information of at least the major elements of the invention. For example: numeral block 7 should be label as intermediate distributor 7, numeral block 1 should be label as exchange 1, and so on. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as “amended.” If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either “Replacement Sheet” or “New Sheet” pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Objections

2. Claims 12-15 are objected to because of the following informalities: the claims are inconsistency with the parent claim. For example: the parent claim claimed “A connection

Art Unit: 2643

architecture”, whereas, depending claims 12-15 claimed “A terminal block”. Appropriate correction is required.

3. Claim 1 is objected to because of the following informalities: the claim structure does not meet current claim structure practice. A proper claim must include a preamble and a body (see claim 17). Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

5. Claims 1-5, 12-15 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Swam (6,831,930).

Consider claim 1, Swam teaches a connection architecture for xDSL networks with a metal port, wherein a voice signal is obtained from a switching exchange, reaches a horizontal terminal block, continues to a terminal of an intermediate distributor and from there to an assembly formed by a filter and/or a splitter and a DSLAM, which is configured to supply a high-speed digital signal xDSL from a network, there being emitted from the assembly a combined voice and data signal which reaches the intermediate distributor, and is transmitted to a vertical terminal block and a subsequent separation filter, thus reaching a user either on a telephone or on a computer, wherein the intermediate distributor or the vertical terminal block has a connection element which has cut-off and test contacts, and the metal port is disposed on

Art Unit: 2643

the connection element itself of the intermediate distributor or on the vertical terminal block, thereby obtaining a signal from the metal port which is subsequently conveyed to a test rack, without needing to disconnect or reconnect an electrical conductor of the architecture (col. 2 lines 18-28; col. 2 line 52 – col. 3 line 15).

Consider claim 2, Swam teaches a connection architecture further comprising a terminal block that comprises the metal port and is disposed on the terminal of the intermediate distributor, the terminal block including a set of pairs of contacts on a base thereof, which are disposed corresponding to cavities which are provided in the terminal of the intermediate distributor, which correspond to contacts which transmit the combined voice signal and high-speed signal xDSL (col. 5 lines 54-67).

Consider claim 3, Swam teaches wherein the pairs of contacts are disposed corresponding to the cavities corresponding to the contacts for the voice signal which exist on the terminal of the intermediate distributor (col. 5 lines 18-23).

Consider claim 4, Swam teaches a connection architecture further comprising a terminal block that comprises the metal port, the metal port of the terminal block being disposed on the vertical terminal block, such that the terminal block has on a base thereof a set of pairs of contacts which are disposed corresponding to cavities in the vertical terminal block which correspond to contacts of the combined signal (col. 5 lines 18-34).

Consider claim 5, Swam teaches a connection architecture further comprising a connector configured to be connected to one or more adjacent terminal blocks by a bus (Fig. 1).

Consider claim 12, Swam teaches a terminal block for use in the connection architecture wherein the terminal block comprises the metal port and is disposed on the terminal of the

Art Unit: 2643

intermediate distributor, the terminal block including a set of pairs of contacts on a base thereof, which are disposed corresponding to cavities which are provided in the terminal of the intermediate distributor, which correspond to contacts which transmit the combined voice signal and high-speed signal xDSL (col. 5 lines 54-67).

Consider claim 13, Swam teaches wherein the pairs of contacts are disposed corresponding to the cavities corresponding to the contacts for the voice signal which exist on the terminal of the intermediate distributor (col. 5 lines 18-23).

Consider claim 14, Swam teaches wherein the terminal block comprises the metal port, the metal port of the terminal block being disposed on the vertical terminal block, such that the terminal block has on a base thereof a set of pairs of contacts which are disposed corresponding to cavities in the vertical terminal block, which correspond to contacts of the combined signal (col. 5 lines 18-34).

Consider claim 15, Swam teaches a terminal block comprising a connector configured to be connected to one or more adjacent terminal blocks by a bus (Fig. 1).

Consider claim 17, Swam teaches a connection architecture for a xDSL network, the architecture comprising: a switching exchange electrically connected to a terminal of an intermediate distributor via a horizontal terminal block, the switching exchange configured to provide a voice signal to a filter and/or splitter and a DSLAM, wherein the DSLAM is configured to receive an xDSL signal from a network and the filter and/or splitter is or are configured to provide a combined voice and data signal to the intermediate distributor terminal; a vertical terminal block configured to receive the combined voice and data signal from the intermediate distributor and to transmit the combined signal to a separation filter, the separation

Art Unit: 2643

filter being configured to output a voice signal and a data signal wherein the intermediate distributor comprises a connection element that includes cut-off and test contacts; and a metal port on the connection element, wherein the intermediate distributor is configured so that a signal can be obtained from the metal port and conveyed to a test rack without disconnecting the filter and/or splitter (col. 2 lines 18-28; col. 2 line 52 – col. 3 line 15).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 7-11 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Swam (6,831,930) in view of Schmokel (2003,0002641).

Consider claim 7, Swam teaches wherein the metal port, through which the metallic access to the intermediate distributor or the vertical terminal block is made, comprises a plurality of boards (i.e., cards) (col. 2 lines 57-65; col. 5 lines 18-20). Swam does not further suggest the boards containing electrical components, each one of the boards having contact pins or plugs on a lower edge of the board, to be housed in cavities for a patch and test or protection area of the intermediate distributor or of the vertical terminal block. However, Schmokel suggested such (see Fig. 7-9). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the teaching of Schmokel into view of Swam in order for providing ease of connections as well as increasing density.

Art Unit: 2643

Consider claim 8, Schmokel teaches wherein the boards also have comprise an array having connectors for interconnection thereof and/or for connection to at least one cartridge in the array (§ 0031-0035; 0043-0045).

Consider claim 9, Schmokel teaches wherein the connectors that interconnect the cartridges in array, include buses (§ 0031-0035; 0043-0045).

Consider claim 10, Swam does not suggest wherein the terminal block includes a housing, and the boards are configured as cartridges having lids, which, when coupled with the housing, provide a closed outer surface which protects electrical components thereof. However, Schmokel suggested such (see Fig. 3-5). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the teaching of Schmokel into view of Swam in order for providing ease of connections as well as increasing density.

Consider claim 11, Swam does not suggest wherein the boards are laminated, and/or incorporate the electrical components on one or both sides, and/or are protected within a housing. However, Schmokel suggested such (see Fig. 3-5). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the teaching of Schmokel into view of Swam in order for providing ease of connections as well as increasing density.

Consider claim 16, Schmokel teaches wherein the cartridge comprises an upper or folding lid (see Fig. 3-5).

Art Unit: 2643

Conclusion

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

9. Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Mail Stop ____ (explanation, e.g., Amendment or After-final, etc.)

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Facsimile responses should be faxed to:

(571) 273-8300

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to:

Customer Service Window

Randolph Building

401 Dulany Street

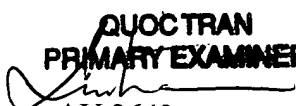
Alexandria, VA 22314

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Quoc Tran** whose telephone number is **(571) 272-7511**. The examiner can normally be reached on M, T, TH and Friday from 8:00 to 6:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, **Curtis Kuntz**, can be reached on **(571) 272-7499**.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the **Technology Center 2600** whose telephone number is **(571) 272-2600**.

QUOCTRAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER


AU 2643

December 15, 2005